ABSTRACT

Short duration micro–sleep or nap periods reduce the power consumption of a computing device. In use, the computing device determines a first duration to a next expected event in the computing device, and compares the first duration to a minimum micro–sleep duration. If

5   the first duration is greater than or equal to the minimum duration, then the processor enters a processor sleep state for a sleep duration. The processor then wakes up and returns to a running state at the end of the sleep duration and before the next expected event. This permits the use of a low–power sleep state while giving the appearance that the computing device is functional. As an additional requirement before entering micro–sleep, the current or recent

10   processor load may be evaluated to determine whether a micro–sleep interval is appropriate.

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